

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Scott Kent, Assistant Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Norton Sound Area Office
Pouch 1148
Nome, AK, 99762
Date Issued: Jan. 22, 2013
Time: 1:00 p.m.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES DECISIONS ON NORTON SOUND-PORT CLARENCE AREA PROPOSALS

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met in Anchorage from January 14-20, 2013. Proposals submitted to the board by the department, other agencies and the public were heard and voted on.

At the meeting the department presented reports for Stock of Concern status for chum salmon in Subdistrict 1 (Nome), and subdistricts 2 (Golovin), and 3 (Elim), and king salmon in subdistricts 5 (Shaktoolik) and 6 (Unalakleet) of the Norton Sound District. The department recommended continuation of a yield concern for those stocks and the board concurred.

Proposals submitted regarding fisheries in Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area are listed below with the board's action.

Proposal 102 – Allow for subsistence fishing for Arctic grayling in the Nome River. **Proposal failed; 0-6.**

Proposal 115 – Increase the amount of money a household with a Norton Sound customary trade finfish permit may receive from the sale of subsistence caught fish from \$200 to \$500. **Proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 116 – Allow for a commercial fishery for chum or pink salmon in Subdistrict 1 (Nome) of Norton Sound District. The proposal was amended to allow commercial salmon fishing only after escapement goals were projected to be met. **Amended proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 117 – Allow for commercial salmon fishing in Subdistrict 1 (Nome) of Norton Sound District west of Cape Nome. **Proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 118 – Delay the start of the commercial coho salmon fishery in Subdistrict 2 (Golovin) of Norton Sound District until 4,800 coho salmon have passed Niukluk River counting tower. **Proposal failed; 0-6.**

Proposal 119 – Repeal the regulatory requirement that chum salmon escapement goals in Subdistrict 1 (Nome) be achieved before allowing commercial coho salmon fishing in subdistricts 2 (Golovin) and 3 (Elim) of Norton Sound District. **Proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 120 – Allow for commercial chum and pink salmon fisheries in subdistricts 5 (Shaktoolik) and 6 (Unalakleet) of Norton Sound District before July 1. The proposal was amended to only allow if there were no restrictions in king salmon subsistence fishery. **Amended proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 121 – Allow for beach seines to harvest pink salmon for subsistence in subdistricts 5 (Shaktoolik) and 6 (Unalakleet) of Norton Sound District except as specified by emergency order. The proposal was amended to allow only from July 1 through August 10 and a net mesh size of no greater than four and one-half inches and requiring king salmon to be released. **Amended proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 122 – Allow for subsistence gillnet fishing seven days a week in Subdistrict 1 (Nome) of Norton Sound District. The proposal was amended to allow subsistence gillnet fishing seven days a week in marine waters east of Cape Nome. **Amended proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 123 – Allow for subsistence fishing with beach seines in Subdistrict 1 (Nome) of Norton Sound District any time subsistence gillnet fishing is open. The proposal was amended to allow only during subsistence gillnet periods from June 15 through July 25. **Amended proposal passed; 4-2.**

Proposal 124 – Move the upstream subsistence fishing boundary on the Sinuk River to Boulder Creek. **Proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 125 – Allow for use of a dip net as a legal subsistence gear for subsistence salmon fishing on the Pilgrim River. **Proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 126 – Allow for an extension to the commercial fishing season for coho salmon in Norton Sound subdistricts by emergency order. **Proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 127 – Allow for an increase in amount of commercial gillnet gear allowed in the Norton Sound pink salmon fishery by emergency order. **Proposal passed; 6-0.**

Proposal 128 – Allow for the holder of a commercial fishing permit to take pink salmon for use as bait in other commercial fisheries. **Proposal failed; 0-6.**

Proposal 129 – Re-open sport fishing for chum salmon in Subdistrict 1 (Nome) of Norton Sound District. **Proposal passed; 4-2.**